

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LISBON 02473 290750Z

ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

DODE-00 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 /046 W

-----290815Z 020032 /13

P 281824Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0735

INFO DIA WASHDC PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

USMISSION NATO

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 2473

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4

TAGS: MILI, PO

SUBJ: MILITARY UNHAPPINESS OVER ARMED FORCES VICE CHIEF

REF: (A) USDAO LISBON 251913Z MAR 77 (NOTAL), (B) LISBON 2421

(DTG 261344Z MAR 77), (C) USDAO LISBON 281250Z MAR 77

(NOTAL), (D) USDAO LISBON 281245Z MAR 77 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: MILITARY WATERS CONTINUE ROILED OVER EANES'S
PROMOTION OF LTC LOUREIRO DOS SANTOS AS VICE CHIEF OF THE ARMED
FORCES GENERAL STAFF. OPPOSITION CITES BREVET
PROMOTION AND LEFTIST CONNECTION AS THE REASONS. RECENT
SERIES OF ARTICLES BY DOS SANTOS ON ARMED FORCES REORGANIZATION
WERE DECIDEDLY PROFESSIONAL AND NON-POLITICAL IN OUTLOOK.
EANES IS LIKELY TO HAVE HIS WAY BUT NOT WITHOUT SACRIFICING
CONSIDERABLE SUPPORT IN TOP MILITARY ECHELONS. END SUMMARY.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LISBON 02473 290750Z

1. MILITARY STILL UPSET OVER DOS SANTOS: MILITARY WATERS
CONTINUED ROILED OVER EANES'S APPOINTMENT OF LTC LOUREIRO
DOS SANTOS AS VICE CHIEF OF ARMED FORCES GENERAL STAFF
(REFTELS). DISPUTE HAS LEAKED TO PRESS,
WITH PRO-GOVERNMENT PAPERS SAYING EANES MANAGED TO CALM
IRE OF GENERALS AND CONSERVATIVE PRESS SUGGESTING THERE MAY

STILL BE PROTEST RESIGNATIONS. DATT AND EMBASSY SOURCES REPORT CONTINUING UNHAPPINESS IN MILITARY DESPITE EANES'S MEETING MARCH 26 WITH LEADING GENERALS TO EXPLAIN APPOINTMENT.

2. WHY DOS SANTOS?: QUESTION IS WHY EANES, IN THE FACE OF WIDESPREAD OPPOSITION TO BREVET PROMOTIONS, DECIDED TO APPOINT A LIEUTENANT COLONEL AS DE FACTO CHIEF OF THE ARMED FORCES. ADDING TO SENIOR OFFICERS' ANGER IS KNOWLEDGE OF PREVIOUS INITIATIVE BY PRESIDENT TO PLACE DOS SANTOS IN VICE CHIEF SLOT--AN INITIATIVE FROM WHICH PRESIDENT DESISTED.

3. SOME REASONS: PRESIDENTIAL AIDE MARTINS SAID MARCH 25 ONE OF MOTIVATIONS BEHIND APPOINTMENT IS PRESIDENT'S DESIRE TO MAINTAIN A LINK BETWEEN THE HIERARCHY AND YOUNGER OFFICERS. THE REVOLT OF THE CAPTAINS IN APRIL 1974 IS STILL IN MIND. OTHER OBSERVERS BELIEVE THE PRESIDENT IS PREPARING FOR THE SENSITIVE TASK OF DISCIPLINING LEFTIST OFFICERS, INCLUDING PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE OTELO, ACCUSED OF ABUSES OF POWER. EANES ALSO HAS PROBLEM OF DEALING WITH MELO ANTUNES, WHO SERVES AS RED FLAG FOR MILITARY CONSERVATIVES. THERE IS SPECULATION THAT DOS SANTOS APPOINTMENT WAS MADE TO OFFSET LEFTIST REACTION TO MOVES EANES WILL MAKE AGAINST MILITARY LEFT.

4. DOS SANTOS ON MILITARY: DOS SANTOS WROTE IN FALL 1976 A THOUGHTFUL SERIES OF ARTICLES ON ARMED FORCES REORGANIZATION. ARTICLES, PUBLISHED IN LISBON MILITARY REGION MAGAZINE "BALUARTE", REVEAL A PROFESSIONAL NONPOLITICAL APPROACH. FOR EXAMPLE, DOS SANTOS SAID REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL (RC) COULD CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LISBON 02473 290750Z

SERVE EITHER AS "STABILIZING ELEMENT FOR DEMOCRACY AND ARMED FORCES REORGANIZATION IF IT SHUTS UP AS INDIVIDUALS, OR DESTABILIZING ELEMENT FOR DEMOCRACY AND AGITATION IN THE ARMED FORCES IF RC CONCERNS ITSELF WITH SELF-PROMOTION, LOSES PERSPECTIVE ON PORTUGUESE SOCIETY, AND SEEKS TO SPECIALIZE IN NONMILITARY ACTIVITIES." DOS SANTOS WROTE THAT GREAT MAJORITY OF MILITARY WERE UNHAPPY ABOUT "DEMOGOGUERY, ANARCHY, INCOMPETENCE, AND MANIPULATION TO WHICH THE ARMED FORCES WERE SUBJECTED IN 1975." HE ADDED THAT MILITARY FELT NEED FOR "REESTABLISHMENT OF FIRM DISCIPLINE AND HIERARCHICAL AUTHORITY BASED ON COMPETENCE."

5. BASIS FOR OPPOSITION: ARMA REPORTS, AFTER EXTENSIVE PROBE OF MILITARY, THAT ONE OF MAIN REASONS FOR OPPOSITION TO DOS SANTOS IS HIS FORMER ASSOCIATION WITH ADMIRAL ROSA COUTINHO, A NAVY LEFTIST. ROSA COUTINHO WAS HEAD OF RC ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES WHEN DOS SANTOS SERVED AS RC PERMANENT SECRETARY.

6. REACTION OF AIR FORCE CHIEF: AIR FORCE CHIEF OF STAFF
LEMONS FERREIRA TOLD AIRA MARCH 28 THAT REPORTS OF MILITARY
RESIGNATIONS WERE AN EXAGGERATION. LEMONS SAID "IN MY VIEW
BREVET PROMOTION WAS A MISTAKE, BUT PAF WILL NOT COMPOUND
ERROR BY MAKING IT AN ISSUE." LEMONS PLANS TO CALL HIS
COMMANDERS TOGETHER MARCH 29 TO MAKE THE SAME POINT.

7. COMMENT: EANES IS LIKELY TO HAVE HIS WAY, BUT NOT
WITHOUT SACRIFICING CONSIDERABLE SUPPORT IN THE TOP MILITARY
ECHELONS.
CARLUCCI

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY PERSONNEL, ARMED FORCES, PUBLIC ATTITUDES, ASSUMPTION OF OFFICE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 28-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977LISBON02473
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X4
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770106-1182
Format: TEL
From: LISBON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770316/aaaaanpe.tel
Line Count: 127
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 82e239b1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 LISBON 2421
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2978687
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MILITARY UNHAPPINESS OVER ARMED FORCES VICE CHIEF
TAGS: MILI, PO, (DOS SANTOS, JOSE ALBERTO LOUREIRO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/82e239b1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009